What is claimed is:

1. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a first of a plurality of empty transfer containers to a process container in a particulate contained manner;

(b) discharging the contents of the process container into the first transfer container so as to provide a charged first transfer container;

(c) sealing the charged first transfer container;

(d) removing the charged first transfer container in a particulate contained manner; and

(e) repeating steps (a) through (d) in a particulate contained manner.

2. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a charging sleeve of a first of a plurality of empty transfer containers to a first of a corresponding plurality of attaching points of a canister so as to provide a canister assembly;

(b) installing the assembly on a discharge flange of a process container;

(c) introducing an inert gas to fill the empty first transfer container;

(d) opening a discharge valve on the process container, allowing particulate to flow into the first transfer container so as to provide a charged first transfer container;

(e) closing the first charging sleeve so as to provide a charging sleeve first section and a charging sleeve second section;

(f) separating the charging sleeve first section from the charging sleeve second section so as to provide a charging sleeve film stub on the bottom of the canister and provide a closed, charged first transfer container;

(g) removing the closed, charged first transfer container;

(h) placing the charging sleeve of an empty second transfer container over the charging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container, and attaching the charging sleeve of the empty second empty transfer container to a second attaching point disposed above the first attaching point of the canister;

(i) removing the charging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container from the canister, and containing the charging sleeve film stub in a bag-out sleeve;

(j) closing and removing the bag-out sleeve;

(k) repeating steps (c) through (j) for the plurality of attaching points and the plurality of transfer containers in a particulate contained manner.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of attaching points is an o-ring groove in a multiple o-ring canister.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein steps (e) and (f) comprise, respectively,

heat sealing a portion of the first charging sleeve so as to form the charging sleeve first section and the charging sleeve second section, and

separating the charging sleeve first section from the charging sleeve second section within the heat sealed portion.

5. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a first of a plurality of charged transfer containers to a process container in a particulate contained manner;

(b) discharging the contents of the charged first transfer container into the process container so as to provide a discharged first transfer container;

(c) sealing the discharged first transfer container;

(d) removing the discharged first transfer container in a particulate contained manner; and

(e) repeating steps (a) through (d) in a particulate contained manner.

6. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a discharging sleeve of a first of a plurality of charged transfer containers to a first of a corresponding plurality of attaching points of a canister so as to provide a canister assembly;

(b) installing the assembly on a charge flange of a process container;

(c) releasing a restraint on the charged first transfer container, allowing particulate to flow into the process container so as to provide a discharged first transfer container;

(d) closing the first discharging sleeve so as to provide a discharging sleeve first section and a discharging sleeve second section;

(e) separating the discharging sleeve first section from the discharging sleeve second section so as to provide a discharging sleeve film stub on the top of the canister and provide a closed, discharged first transfer container;

(f) removing the closed, discharged first transfer container;

(g) placing the discharging sleeve of a charged second transfer container over the discharging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container, and attaching the discharging sleeve of the charged second transfer container to a second attaching point disposed below the first attaching point of the canister;

(h) removing the discharging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container from the canister, and containing the discharging sleeve film stub in a bag-out sleeve;

(i) closing and removing the bag-out sleeve;

(j) repeating steps (c) through (i) for the plurality of attaching points and the plurality of transfer containers in a particulate contained manner.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of attaching points is an o-ring groove in a multiple o-ring canister.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein steps (d) and (e) comprise, respectively,

heat sealing a portion of the first discharging sleeve so as to form the discharging sleeve first section and the discharging sleeve second section, and

separating the discharging sleeve first section from the discharging sleeve second section within the heat sealed portion.

9. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) attaching a cartridge connect sleeve to a discharge flange adapter of a process container;

(b) mounting a cartridge on the discharge flange adapter;

(c) dispensing a first of a plurality of empty transfer containers from the cartridge and placing the empty first transfer container in a restraint, each of the plurality of empty transfer containers comprising a transfer container charging sleeve;

(d) introducing an inert gas to fill the empty first transfer container;

(e) opening a discharge valve on the process container, allowing particulate to flow through a first transfer container charging sleeve into the first transfer container so as to provide a charged first transfer container;

(f) closing the first charging sleeve so as to provide a charging sleeve first section and a charging sleeve second section;

(g) separating the charging sleeve first section from the charging sleeve second section so as to provide a bottom portion of a second transfer container and provide a closed, charged first transfer container;

(h) removing the closed, charged first transfer container;

(i) repeating steps (c) through (h) for the plurality of transfer containers in a particulate contained manner.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein steps (f) and (g) comprise, respectively,

heat sealing a portion of the first charging sleeve so as to form the charging sleeve first section and the charging sleeve second section, and

separating the charging sleeve first section from the charging sleeve second section within the heat sealed portion.

11. A transfer apparatus including a film, said film comprising an olefinic base resin in a greatest proportion, an antistatic agent in a lesser proportion, and a filler with a resin in a least proportion.

12. A transfer apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the olefinic base resin is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and mixtures thereof, and is present in a range of from 95.0 to 99.5%;

the antistatic agent is present in a range of from 0.1 to 0.6%; and

the filler is an inorganic filler present in a range of from 0.1 to 1.0%.

13. A transfer apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the olefinic base resin is selected from the group consisting of linear low density polyethylene, ultra low density polyethylene, and mixtures thereof;

the antistatic agent is selected from the group consisting of an amine-based additive, an amide-based additive, and mixtures thereof; and

the filler is a silica-based inorganic filler.

14. A transfer apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the olefinic base resin is present in a range of from 98 to 99.5%;

the amide-based antistatic agent is present in a range of from 0.1 to 0.5%;

the amine-based antistatic agent is present in a range of from 0.01 to 0.1%; and

the filler is present in a range of from 0.1 to 1.0%.

15. A transfer apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the olefinic base resin is a metallocene-catalyzed resin;

the antistatic agent comprises N,N-bis (2-hydroxyethyl)dodecaneamide and POE(2) C13-C15 alkylamine; and

the filler is a flux calcined diatomaceous earth.

16. A transfer apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the metallocene-catalyzed resin is present in a range of from 99.0 to 99.4%;

the N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)dodecaneamide is present in a range of from 0.3 to 0.5%;

the POE(2) C13-C15 alkylamine is present in a range of from 0.05 to 0.1%; and

the diatomaceous earth is present in a range of from 0.1 to 0.4%.

17. A heat sealing apparatus capable of operating safely in a hazardous environment, said apparatus comprising:

a control enclosure cabinet, a user control box, a tower, a flexarm, and a heat seal head.

18. The heat sealing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the control enclosure cabinet comprises power controls, temperature controls, logic circuits, a first purge and pressurization system for a main control enclosure and a second purge and pressurization system for the heat seal head.

19. The heat sealing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the heat seal head comprises a first temperature sensor disposed on a first sealing surface of the head, and a second temperature sensor disposed on a second sealing surface of the head.

20. The heat sealing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the control enclosure cabinet comprises power controls, temperature controls, logic circuits, and a purge and pressurization system for a main control enclosure and for a heated heat seal head enclosure.

21. A rodding apparatus comprising:

a closure plate disposed in a top charging port of a process container, the closure plate having a first side and a second side;

a post disposed so as to penetrate the closure plate, the post having a first end and a second end, the post first end having a means for removably engaging a rodding pole or a first of a plurality of rodding pole sections;

Rodding Apparatus

a blade assembly attached to the second side of the closure plate at an interior upper section of the process container, the blade assembly comprising a blade and a connecting portion for engaging the post second end;

a bellows assembly disposed so as to encapsulate the post second end and to facilitate movement of the blade assembly within the process container;

a securing means for holding the bellows assembly and the blade assembly in a stowed position, the securing means capable of being manipulated from the exterior of the process container;

an illumination source;

a video monitoring means;

a transparent view port; and

a port assembly to facilitate insertion of the illumination source and the video monitoring means.

22. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) removably attaching a cannister connect sleeve of a canister to a discharge flange adapter of a process container, and removably attaching the canister to the discharge flange adapter, so as to provide a removably attached canister assembly;

(b) removably attaching a charging sleeve of a first of a plurality of empty transfer containers to a first of a corresponding plurality of attaching points of the canister;

(c) introducing an inert gas to fill the empty first transfer container;

(d) opening a discharge valve on the process container, allowing particulate to flow into the

first transfer container so as to provide a charged first transfer container;

(e) closing the first charging sleeve so as to provide a charging sleeve first section and a charging sleeve second section;

(f) separating the charging sleeve first section from the charging sleeve second section so as to provide a charging sleeve film stub on the bottom of the canister and provide a closed, charged first transfer container;

(g) removing the closed, charged first transfer container;

(h) placing the charging sleeve of an empty second transfer container over the charging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container, and attaching the charging sleeve of the empty second empty transfer container to a second attaching point disposed above the first attaching point of the canister;

(i) removing the charging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container from the canister, and containing the charging sleeve film stub in a bag-out sleeve;

(j) closing and removing the bag-out sleeve;

(k) repeating steps (c) through (j) for the plurality of attaching points and the plurality of transfer containers in a particulate contained manner.

23. A method for the contained transfer of particulates, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) removably attaching a cannister connect sleeve of a canister to a charge flange adapter of a process container, and removably attaching the canister to the charge flange adapter, so as to provide a removably attached canister assembly;

(b) removably attaching a discharging sleeve of a first of a plurality of charged transfer containers to a first of a corresponding plurality of attaching points of the canister;

(c) releasing a restraint on the charged first transfer container, allowing particulate to flow into the process container so as to provide a discharged first transfer container;

(d) closing the first discharging sleeve so as to provide a discharging sleeve first section and a discharging sleeve second section;

(e) separating the discharging sleeve first section from the discharging sleeve second section so as to provide a discharging sleeve film stub on the top of the canister and provide a closed, discharged first transfer container;

(f) removing the closed, discharged first transfer container;

(g) placing the discharging sleeve of a charged second transfer container over the discharging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container, and attaching the discharging sleeve of the charged second transfer container to a second attaching point disposed below the first attaching point of the canister;

(h) removing the discharging sleeve film stub of the first transfer container from the canister, and containing the discharging sleeve film stub in a bag-out sleeve;

(i) closing and removing the bag-out sleeve;

(j) repeating steps (c) through (i) for the plurality of attaching points and the plurality of transfer containers in a particulate contained manner.

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